

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are currently active. Claims 1-6 have been amended by the current amendment.

In the outstanding office action, the specification and the drawings were objected to for describing but failing to illustrate a holder; the drawings were objected to for failing to identify the units (e.g., mm); claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,435,256 to Anderson et al.; and claim 6 was objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form.

In response to the objections to the specification and the drawings, a set of replacement drawings have been filed herewith showing in Figure 1 a holder, and showing in Figs. 1 to 3 the units "mm." No further objections to the drawings or specification are therefore anticipated.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention is directed to a method for producing a turbine blade or vane. To that end, claim 1 defines the steps of finishing the turbine blade or vane by fixing the casting in a first position; rotating, prior to a material-removing machining process, the casting around the longitudinal axis of the blade or vane from the first position to a second position, subjecting the casting in the first position to the automatic material-removing machining process being program-controlled with respect to the first position; and subjecting the casting in the second position to the automatic material-removing machining process being program-controlled with respect to the first position, while retaining the same casting mold. As a consequence of these steps, any changes to the turbine blade or vane made after development has been concluded can be implemented by merely changing the

machining tools during the machining step. See the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the specification.

In contrast thereto, Anderson et al. teach a method of producing a cooled cast part for a thermal turbo machine, i.e. a turbine blade, comprising the steps of (see claim 1):

producing a wax casting model for a cooled cast part for a thermal turbo machine, the wax casting model comprising a blade tip at a first end, a blade vane, cooling holes, a platform at a second end, and a step surrounding a core;

applying a wax seal to a shoulder located above the step surrounding the core, the wax seal adjacent the core;

casting a ceramic mold, the ceramic mold having an additional ceramic material corresponding to the shoulder and the wax seal, the additional ceramic material having a specific height above the step;

removing the additional ceramic material independently from a finishing step for the step; and

casting the cooled cast part.

Thus, in contrast to Applicant's invention, Anderson et al. provide additional ceramic material at the ceramic mold which is then removed in a separate removing step.

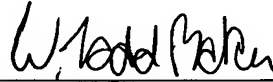
For the foregoing reasons, Anderson et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 1-6.

No further issues are believed to be outstanding. Consequently, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

W. Todd Baker
Registration No. 45,265

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